From:	Matt Sawatzki
To:	mdove@fec.gov
Subject:	ActBlue Contibutions
Date:	12/10/2007 03:46 PM

Dear Ms. Dove-

I read recently of a preliminary decision by the FEC to deny a significant portion of federal matching funds to the campaign of John Edwards. The funds in question involve those that are obtained through ActBlue, a Democratic political action committee. While the original intent of the relevant law (11 C.F.R. §9034.3(f)) was to ensure that contributions from corporations, unions, etc. were not illegally matched, ActBlue is in a grey area of this.

It's true that ActBlue is a registered PAC. However, they are simply a conduit for small dollar donations to be made on behalf of ordinary citizens. ActBlue facilitates the democratic process of contributing to political campaigns by using the internet. ActBlue has no power and has not ever taken money from a contributor and given to a candidate other than the one specifically picked to receive funds from the contributor. They are simply facilitators, middlemen if you will.

This FEC law is nearly 30 years old and, with the great advances in technology and networking, needs to be revised. ActBlue operates within the spirit of the law that had no way of knowing what the internet even was at that point.

I urge you to pass this sentiment along and reconsider the FEC's decision on the behalf of all those who favor matching contributions and public financing. I know that there are many thousands of citizens just like me who would feel the same way if they were as informed and willing to reach out to you. To reject this case (and similar cases) would be to set back public financing many years. The spirit of the law must continue by evolving with the times.

Thank you for your consideration, Ms. Dove.

Sincerely,

Matt Sawatzki

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